

Application Related Information

Application: Application Not Verified
Grad Program Applying To: MES

Iteration Name: 202510_GR_G
Program Name: MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By: Julie Brigham-Grette
Recommenders Institution: University of Massachusetts Amherst

Recommenders Title: Researcher, Geoscientist, Program Director

Contact Name: Emily Marraffa

Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs: I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.

Recommendation Waiver Choice:

Recommendation Form Submitted: ✓

Recommendation Status: Received

Received Date: 12/23/2023 09:21 AM

Recommender Assessment: I recommend this applicant.

Recommendation Type: General

Recommender Form: Letter of Recommendation

Recommendation Entity ID: 1024000112181260

Recommendation Owner: Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:

Applicant ability as self-directed learner:

Time since last contact with applicant:

Applicant as productive member of group:

Relationship with Applicant:

Applicant most significant strengths:

Ability to complete rigorous grad program:

Responsibility/reliability:

Communication Skills - Oral:

Communication skills - written:

Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:

Ability to work independently:

Ability to handle stress:

Ability to think critically:

Ability to analyze/problem solve:

Ability to think creatively:

Openness to feedback:

Potential for leadership:

Ability to work in a team:

Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:

Form URL: <https://evergreenstatecollege.radiu>

Other Information

Created Time: 11/07/2023 08:34 AM

Created By: Josephine Bernier

Modified Time: 12/23/2023 09:21 AM

Modified By: Josephine Bernier

Prof. Julie Brigham-Grette
Professor
Graduate Program Director
jbg92@umass.edu

*Programs in Geology
Geography
Earth Systems
Environmental Sciences*

23 December 2023

Evergreen State College
Master of Environmental Studies Program
Attn: Averi Azar
Dear Evergreen Master's Program committee,

It is a great pleasure for me to write an enthusiastic letter in support of the application of **Emily Marraffa** to your master's program. I have been a professor of Earth Sciences at UMass Amherst for 36 years. Over this time, I have mentored many undergraduate students as well as graduate masters and PhDs and it is with this perspective that I offer my assessment of Emily (known to me as Em, as she prefers). Em was one of my Environmental Science Advisees during her time at UMass Amherst and a transfer student into our undergrad program.

I had the pleasure of having Em in my Glacial Geology course (Geo 563) during the Fall of 2021. The course is an elective aimed at seniors and first year graduate students and it was conducted face to face, everyone spread out with masks. With discipline we made it through the semester without anyone contracting the corona virus. I sincerely appreciated Em's enthusiastic participation in this experiment. And I am happy we have that phase behind us with Covid. I have kept in touch with Em as she explores her career options and passions.

In my course we explore advanced thinking in surficial geology, glacial geomorphology, and climate change, building on the physics of ice sheets, glacial systems, and sea level rise. Lectures for 3 hours a week were followed by weekly all afternoon, laboratory exercises including field trips, map exercises, analytical exercises, and some critiques of the literature. Em received an exceptionally strong A- in the course with very high marks on all three open-book take home exams. Her term paper was an example of where she wants to be -- combining a passion for music with environmental justice and understanding climate change today in the context of the Quaternary. For her public presentation she composed music and a video to share that context with the class. It was the first time I have ever seen an acoustic guitar played in a classroom by someone who has their own channel on Spotify! This and other courses resulted in her current focus on ecological restoration.

It seems to me this exploration of self is really expressed in her research essay. In addition to ecological restoration, she wants to learn more about energy and climate policy and use her talents to make the world a better place. This journey, while different is also a testament to her maturity and dedication. Em is exceptionally bright, naturally inquisitive, and verbally eloquent. With an exceptionally strong GPA, she finished her senior year within our Environmental science program having taken many upper-level electives. She is strongly motivated. In all my interactions with Em, she has been extremely reliable to get things done, follow up, with remarkable maturity. Without question Em is responsible, self-motivated, resourceful, and curious. Her academic path is a good fit for Evergreen, and I give Em my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,



Julie Brigham-Grette
Professor